

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of reporting on the quality of repair work performed on an article comprising the steps of:

(a) identifying occurrences of quality problems in repair of an article at a repair facility;

(b) creating repair checkpoints in a repair facility;

(c) generating estimate data on the estimated cost for repairing the article, the estimate data being transferred to the database, said estimate data includes a repair estimate factor;

(b)(d) generating quality data on the occurrences of quality problems of step (a) at each repair checkpoint in a repair facility for an article;

(e)(e) electronically transferring the quality data to a computer database;

(d)(f) sorting the quality data in the database utilizing said repair estimate factor for producing a report of said quality data which relates to industry indicators; and

(e)(g) producing a report of the sorted quality data.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2~~1~~, wherein the article is a vehicle.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the quality problems are selected from the group consisting of incorrect estimate, failure to procure repair parts, procurement of incorrect repair parts, repair parts unavailable, improper welding, poor fit of parts, improper corrosion protection, poor workmanship, incomplete repair, insufficient vehicle protection and improper refinish color match.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the quality data includes information on the date of the repair and the report of step (e) identifies the quantity of quality problems in a time period.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the report of step (e) compares the quantity of repairs having at least one occurrence of a quality problem in a time period to the total quantity of repairs performed in the time period.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the ~~quality data further comprises identification of a stage of the repair at which the quality data was collected, the stage being selected from the group consisting of~~ checkpoint comprises delivery of the vehicle to the repair facility, disassembly of the vehicle, frame repair, metal repair, mechanical repair, preparation for refinishing, application of refinish, reassembly of the vehicle and delivery of the vehicle to its owner.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein ~~step (d) comprises sorting~~ sorting comprises reporting the quality data according to one of the repair stages checkpoints.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the ~~quality data includes the estimate data and step (d) comprises sorting the quality data by a said repair estimate factor selected from the group consisting of~~ comprises one of: a vehicle manufacturer, vehicle model, vehicle year, insurance company, repair time, labor cost, parts cost, materials cost, total repair cost, repair facility overhead, geographic area and repair level.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein ~~step (d) comprises sorting the quality data according to a geographic area of the repair facility~~ said report having industry indicators comprising one of: repair shop problem, vehicle repair cost, vehicle repairability and vehicle insurance cost balance.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein steps ~~(b)~~, ~~(c)~~, ~~(d)~~ and ~~(e)~~(d), (e), (f) and (g) are performed on a computer network.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the computer database of step ~~(e)~~(e) is maintained on a global communications network.

13. (Currently Amended) A system for reporting on the quality of repair work performed on an article comprising:

- (a) means for collecting quality data on occurrences of quality problems in repair of an article at a checkpoint of a repair facility;
- (b) a computer having a database for tabulating the collected quality data; and
- (c) software for sorting the tabulated quality data based on estimated repair factors for repair work needed at the checkpoint and producing a report of the sorted quality data.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~14~~13, wherein the article is a vehicle and the repair facility is a vehicle repair facility.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the quality problems are selected from the group consisting of incorrect estimate, failure to procure repair parts, procurement of incorrect repair parts, repair parts unavailable, improper welding, poor fit of parts, improper corrosion protection, poor workmanship, incomplete repair, insufficient vehicle protection and improper refinish color match.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the quality data further comprises information on the date of the repair and the software includes an

algorithm for sorting the quality data for repairs having at least one occurrence of a quality problem in a time period.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16, wherein the ~~quality data further comprises identification of a stage of the repair at which the quality data was collected, the stage being selected from the group consisting of~~checkpoint comprises one of: delivery of the vehicle to the repair facility, disassembly of the vehicle, frame repair, metal repair, mechanical repair, preparation for refinishing, application of refinish, or reassembly of the vehicle and delivery of the vehicle to its owner.

19. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the software includes an algorithm for sorting the quality data according to one of the repair stages.

20. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the quality data includes the estimate data and the software includes an algorithm for sorting the quality data according to a repair estimate factor selected from the group consisting of vehicle manufacturer, vehicle model, vehicle year, insurance company, repair time, actual repair time, labor cost, parts cost, materials cost, total repair cost, repair facility overhead and repair level.

21. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the software includes an algorithm for sorting the data according to a geographic area of the repair facility.

22. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the means for collecting quality and estimate data comprises another computer.

23. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the computer having the database further includes the means for collecting the quality and estimate data.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the computer is maintained on a global communications network.

25. (New) The system of claim 13, wherein said report having industry indicators comprising repair shop problem, vehicle repair cost, vehicle repairability and/or vehicle insurance cost balance.